

Invasives Team Update



PHOTO: KATHERINE HOWARD

Porcelain Berry Closeup



PHOTO: KATHERINE HOWARD

Porcelain Berry Infestation



PHOTO: KATHERINE HOWARD

Black Swallow-wort Seed Pod



PHOTO: CAROLIN VAN DER LAAN

Black Swallow-wort Flower

Be on the lookout for porcelain berry, which exploded around here last year, enveloping trees, signposts and anything in between. We will work on it around Crystal Lake, Webster Woods, and Quinobequin Road. It has frilly/lacy leaves, a white pith, and later blue/pink/white berries. You can help by removing it in your neighborhoods (dig the roots or cut it, especially before it fruits), and by letting us know where you see large infestations.

Black swallow-wort (BSW) vines emerged in early May in our yards and parks. Look for it climbing up hedges, shrubs and fences, or just wallowing over itself on the ground. It reduces biodiversity and degrades our local environment, and, sadly, is fatal to monarch butterflies. It will soon be in bloom with small purple flowers, followed by large seed pods that are often hidden under the plant. When the pods dry and open, the wind will disperse the seeds on white fibers to make the infestation even worse. The BSW vine has blue-green glossy, opposite leaves, small purple flowers, and large seed pods that hang down like pea pods. (See our website for many other photos.) You can dig it up, cut it down, or just pull off the seed pods to prevent further spread. Put everything into a bag and into your trash, not into yard waste, to avoid further spread. See the invasive plant information on our website (listed under Resources), such as this link for BSW: <https://newtonconservators.org/black-swallow-wort/>

Newton Conservators conducts many work sessions in spring and fall to protect Newton's open spaces and manage invasive species. We have sessions scheduled into July (listed as Events on the website) and will add more sessions for the summer and fall. If you would like to be on the email list for notices of our group activities, please email Invasives@newtonconservators.org.

Thank you! ♦

🌿 Katherine Howard

MISSION Newton Conservators, Inc.

Newton Conservators promotes the protection and preservation of natural areas, including parks, playgrounds, forests, and streams which are open or may be converted to open space for the enjoyment and benefit of the people of Newton. It further aims to disseminate information about these and other environmental matters.

A primary goal is to foster the acquisition of land, buildings, and other facilities to be used for the encouragement of scientific, educational, recreational, literary, and other public pursuits that will promote good citizenship and the general welfare of the people of our community.

Newton Conservators was formed as a not-for-profit organization 63 years ago in June 1961.

The Newton Conservators' Newsletter® is published four times each year by the Newton Conservators, Inc., in June, September, December, and March. Deadlines for these issues are the second Friday of the month before the issue is published.

We welcome material related to our mission from any source. Send proposed articles or letters by email in MS Word or rich text format to articles@newtonconservators.org. Digitized photographs, maps, and diagrams are also welcome.

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